

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 (now canceled), claim 4 has been corrected, independent claim 15 has been added (combination of claims 1, 3 and 10), and dependent claims 16-26 have been added (correspond to original claims 2, 4, 9 and 11-14). Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bierbaum et al.

The inventors assert that this rejection must be withdrawn.

Bierbaum et al. disclose a dental instrument deposit table which includes a base member and a removable cover unit which has a deposit surface for receiving instruments and holders for handpieces. However, contrary to the examiner's assertion, Fig. 3 does not show connectors 61 capable of holding hanging instruments or holding a hose from the front as it is shown in the Figs. 5 and 6 of the present application. Connectors are not shown at all, reference number 61 corresponds to a recess, see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 5. A person of ordinary skill in the art would know that there must be connectors somewhere to connect the hose of the hanging instrument, however, there is no disclosure of how to attach

a hose of a whip-arm coming from the front as shown in Fig. 2 of the present application.

Although an exchangeable cover unit on a base member is known from Bierbaum, there is no teaching of the types of the top modules as defined in claim 1 of the present application.

The examiner's prior art rejection based on Bierbaum et al. cannot apply to amended claim 1 or new claim 15.

And nothing in Doty, Young or Chidress would overcome this deficiency.

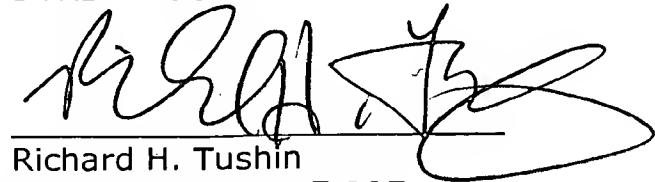
Favorable review of the amended claims is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the additional claim fees to our Deposit Account No. 04-2223.

Respectfully submitted,

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

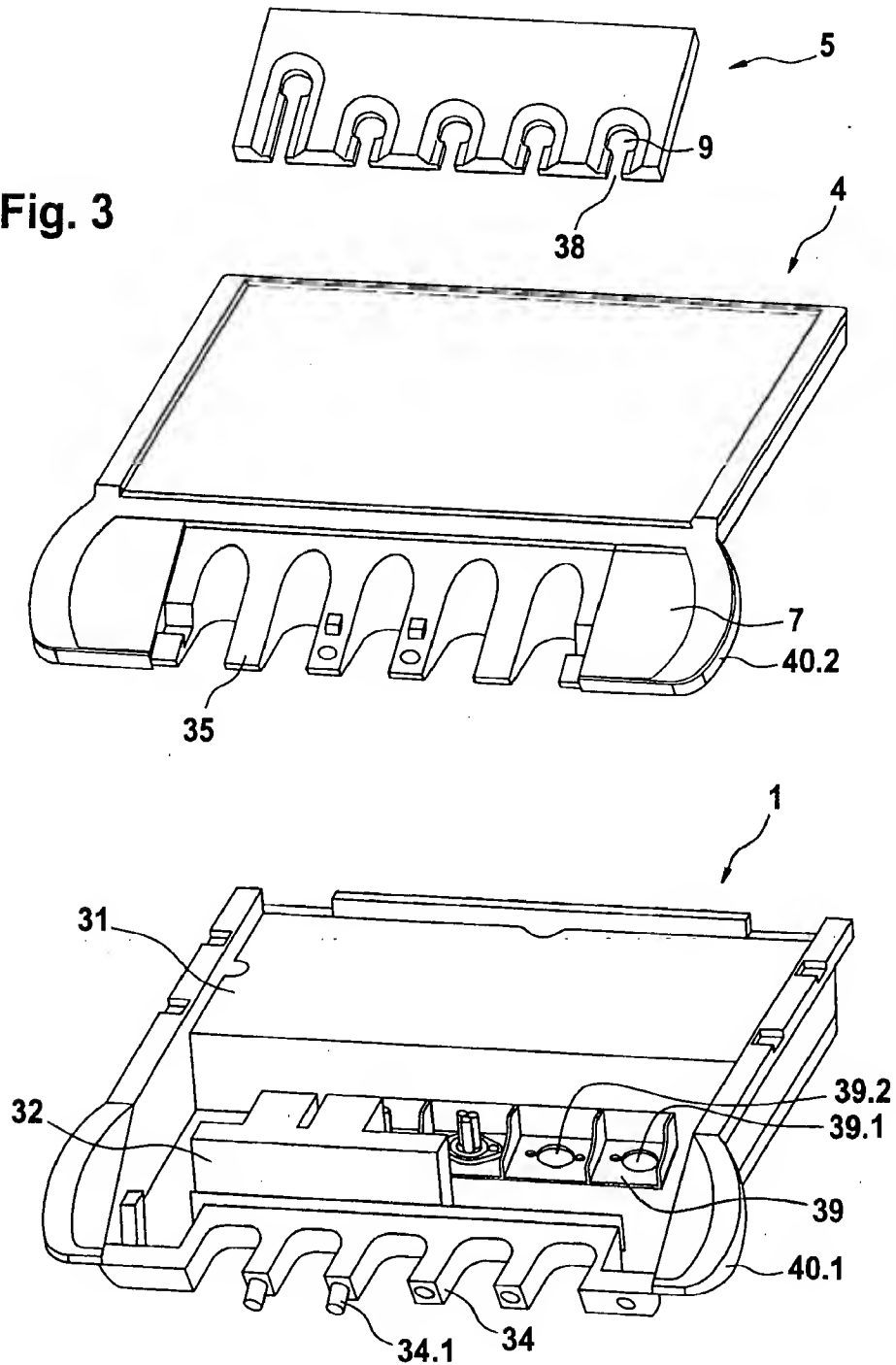
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Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

